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FROM: USIS Rome
TO: USIA WASHINGTON

No. 67
MESSAGE NO.
Nov. 9, 1964
DATE

SUBJECT: Article in Vie Nuove attributed to Dr. Martin Luther King

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JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

The October 22 edition of Vie Nuove, an Italian weekly magazine owned by the Italian Communist Party (PCI), carried an article attributed to Dr. Martin Luther King. The magazine, with a circulation of 133,730, claims that Dr. King wrote the article for its exclusive publication.

The article is entitled, "What We Negroes are Asking of the President," and opens with a full page shot of Dr. King talking to President Johnson. There is a short statement, written by the magazine at the beginning of the article, which reads:

"The racial problem is one of the principal subjects which divides the United States in this presidential campaign. This article by Martin Luther King, which we are publishing as an exclusive, highlights the more dramatic aspects of the subject and gives voice to the demands which the colored population are placing before the entire nation. It is a denunciation of unequal rights which goes beyond the century old racial question. The statement, 'You must respect my person' is a demand which raises the problem of democracy for everyone."

Dr. King's article begins with his description of the disparity between the great economic progress which the United States has made and the slow progress towards racial equality. A major cause of this lag, says Dr. King, is the attitude of the southern states towards the Federal Government. He says that these states are almost an

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autonomous region in which the basic laws of the United States are not respected.

But some progress is being made even in the South, he says, adding that the freedom marches and the non-violent demonstrations have been the principal reasons for this success; the churches and the synagogues can contribute to this progress by bringing to the attention of the whole nation the injustice which daily confront the American Negro.

Dr. King says that the recent riots in some major cities have undoubtedly hurt the Negro cause. At the same time, however, the disturbing upheavals in the cities of the North show many Northern Americans, according to Dr. King, that their prejudices are much more deeply rooted than they thought.

Dr. King states that perhaps we are already emerging from the "darkest moment which precedes the dawn," but adds that "the road to progress will not be simple or straight." He further states that the Negro revolution will not be daunted; that Negroes will work harder to overcome the obstacles. Negroes will make their influence felt through economic boycotts, through their participation in the labor force, and through non-violent demonstrations, he adds.

The last paragraph of the article is out of context. In fact, there seems to be some misprint, whether deliberate or inadvertent, on the part of the magazine. According to Vie Nuove, Dr. King says:

"Negroes will choose violence for conducting their struggles in the future. But their methods will underline the general success of peaceful methods for obtaining those social changes which produce tangible improvements."

Comment: The Department or USIA may want to inform Dr. King of the publication of this article and point out to him that Vie Nuove is owned by the PCI and regularly used as a vehicle for anti-American propaganda. If the decision is made to bring the article to Dr. King's attention, the Embassy would appreciate knowing his reaction, particularly since there is a good chance that the article was obtained by Vie Nuove under false pretenses, or simply lifted out of another ~~any~~ publication and

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G. A. Ewing

Gordon A. Ewing
Country Public
Affairs Officer.

Attachment: October 22 edition of magazine Vie Nuove

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Newspaper

Rinascita

Settimanale fondato da Palmiro Togliatti

N. 42 - anno 21

Sabato 24 ottobre 1964

L. 100

Lotta
di classe
e riunificazione
politica

Interviste con
Vecchietti
Lombardi

La politica del Ventesimo

Le decisioni di Mosca, per l'importanza dell'avvenimento, per il peso che esso è chiamato ad avere nelle prospettive della vita sovietica e del movimento operaio internazionale, non potevano non suscitare interrogativi, non diventare argomento di riflessione e di dibattito ben oltre le frontiere dell'Unione Sovietica. La procedura di quelle decisioni e il modo contraddittorio, tale da lasciare ancora vaste zone d'ombra, col quale sono state comunicate, hanno certo determinato

è che l'affanno della crisi del centro-sinistra e del naufragio delle sue prospettive politiche impedisce a certi democratici e a taluni socialisti di guardare al di là dei voti delle prossime elezioni municipali, anche quando si tratta della prospettiva mondiale. Con il risultato, crediamo, di non veder chiaro né quello che può accadere nel mondo, né quello che accadrà nel municipio.

A noi spetta ribadire, anche in questa occasione, una politica che ci pare fondamentale

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